

MANUFACTURING RSA CONDUCTS SKILLS GAP ASSESSMENT

Recently, 137 manufactures across the Central Upper Peninsula participated in workforce and skills gap assessment provided by the Manufacturing Regional Skills Alliance (RSA). This survey was intended to assess any skills gaps and shortages of qualified labor for entry level production and maintenance jobs in the Upper Peninsula.

The 2006 Manufacturing Survey

indicates that respondents will experience over 600 retirements over the next 5 years; estimate over 2,100 openings for production and maintenance workers; and 22 firms plan expansions with over 362,000 sq/ft of production space and 20,000 sq/ft of office equipment.

Firms with growth plans identified 53 areas of hiring needs over 11 different occupation areas where

they anticipate hiring demand. Similarly, firms not projecting facility growth projected 36 areas of hiring needs over 10 different occupation areas.

The Manufacturing RSA will work as a business cluster to address common human resource recruitment issues, which may include: partnering with Michigan Works! to recruit a qualified labor force; col-

laborate with universities, community colleges, and secondary schools to recruit workers; and to identify annual hiring needs to provide real-time occupational projections to ensure that an equilibrium of supply and demand exist in the labor force.

For more information on the U.P. Manufacturing RSA, please call 906.789.0558 ext. 215.